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AREA 88

by KAORU SHINTANI

BIWEEKLY

MERCENARY JET FIGHTER COMICS FROM JAPAN!

1

VIZ COMICS

SCANNED BY HIKARU

MISSION 1:

The BLUE SKIES of BETRAYAL

SHHAAA
00
KABOOM!

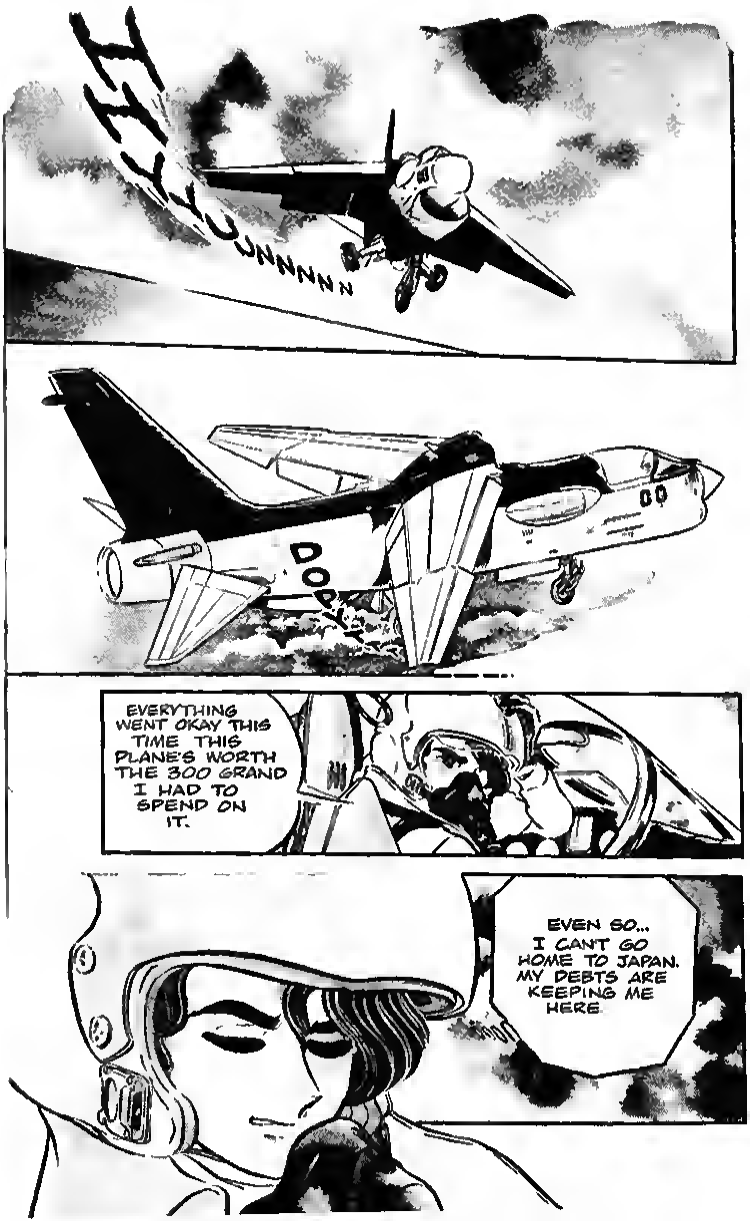
RRUMBBBB
SSHHHHHHAAAAA
BAD HIT THEY'RE GOING TO BUY IT.
GYAAHH!!
AH UHH...
EEEK

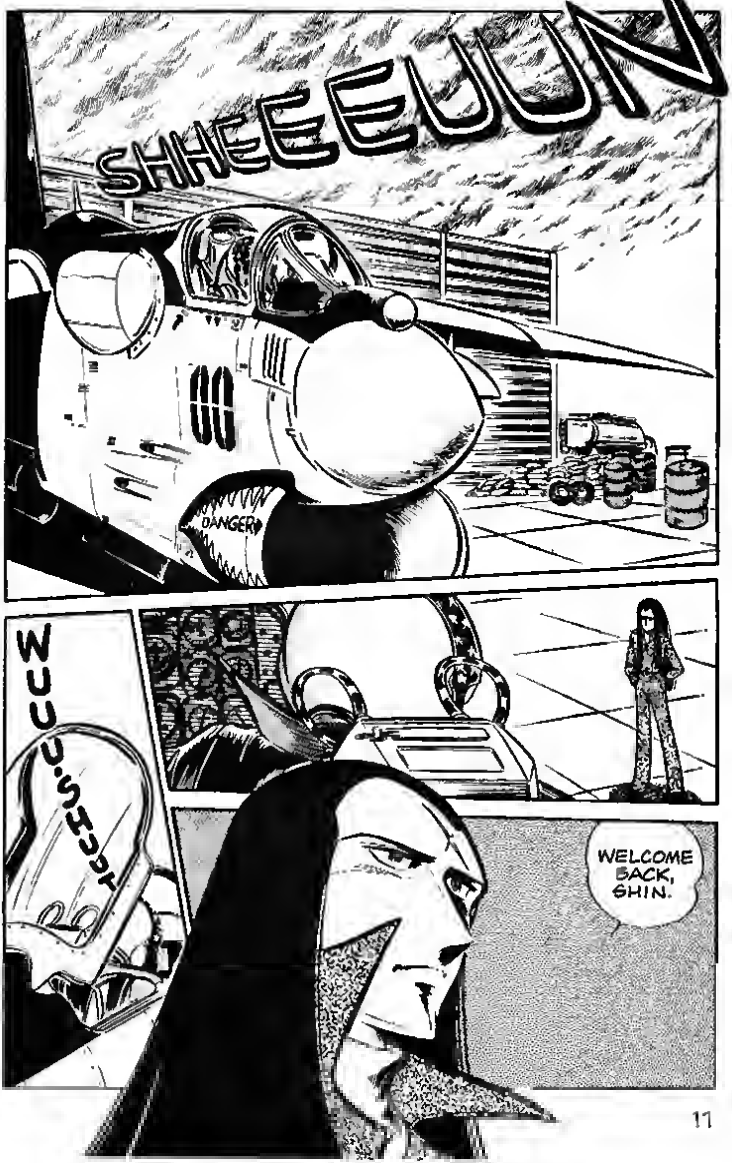
AHHHHH AHH!!
UHHNNN...

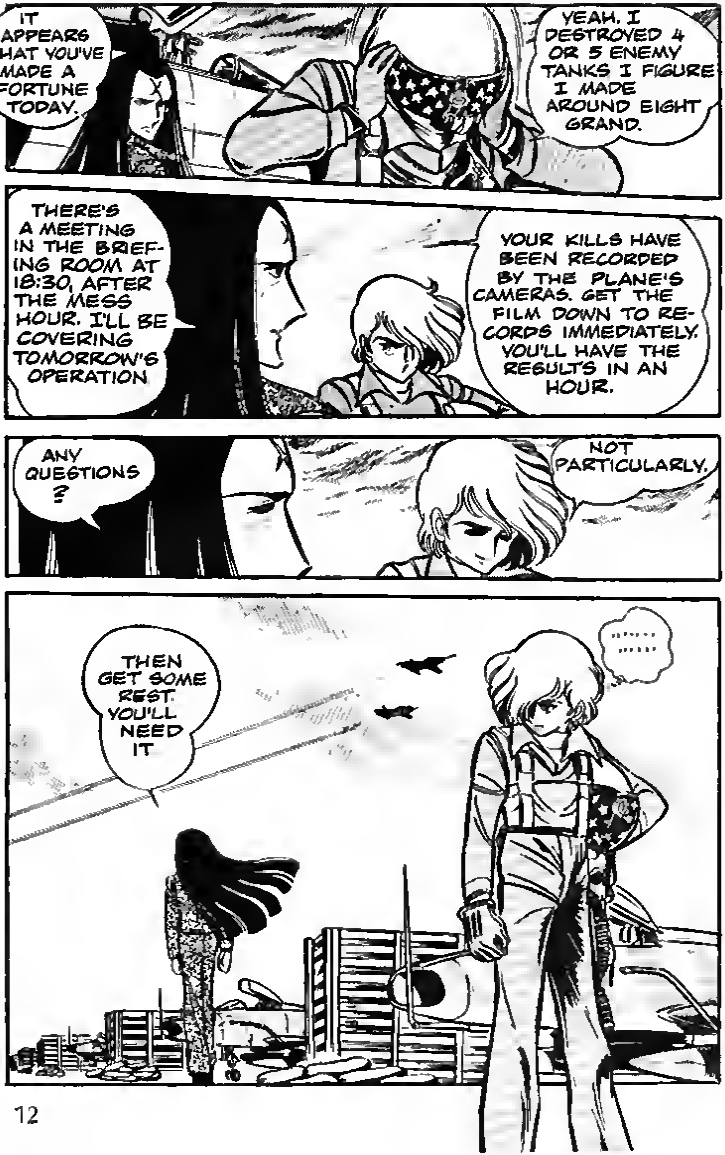
H.Q., COME IN. THIS IS ZERO ZERO SECTION-- SHIN KAZAMA OVER
H.Q. THE INSURGENT'S TANKS ARE HEADING NORTH FROM POINT THREE-BRAVO IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OVER
00
DANGER
I SAY AGAIN, THIS IS ZERO ZERO SECTION-- SHIN KAZAMA, OVER.
DAMMIT! THEY DON'T COPY! THIS HAPPENS TOO DAMN OFTEN!
WHOA! MORE TANKS!
ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS, STAY AWAY FROM THESE TARGETS
THEY'RE MINE

I SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON THIS F8E CRUSADER, SO LET ME MAKE UP FOR IT.
OKAY ?

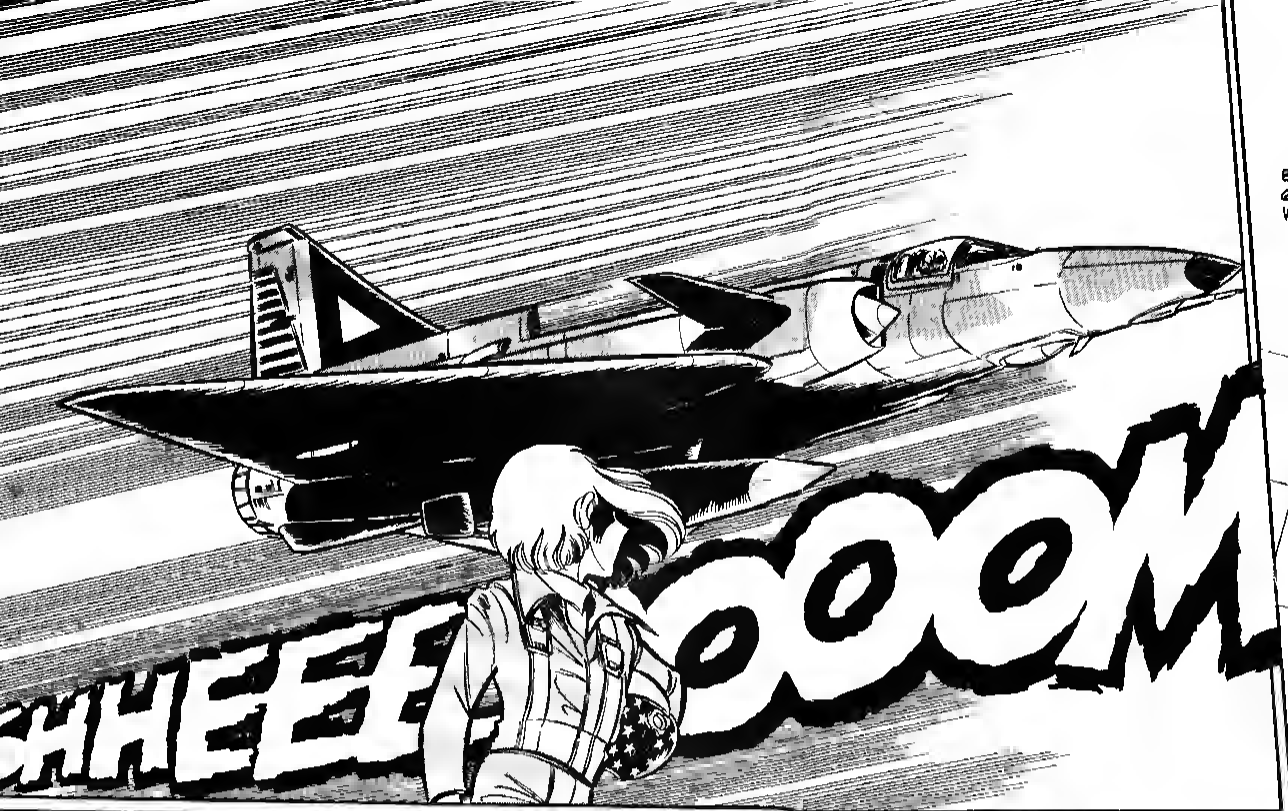
B-DOOM!
B-DOOM!
B-DOOM!
EE-YAAA A !!
VEEDOOM
LOOKS LIKE I'VE MADE OVER $6000 TODAY.
TIME TO GO BACK


EVERYTHING WENT OKAY THIS TIME. THIS PLANE'S WORTH THE 300 GRAND I HAD TO SPEND ON IT.
EVEN SO... I CAN'T GO HOME TO JAPAN. MY DEBTS ARE KEEPING ME HERE.


SHEEEUUN
DANGER
WUUUSSH
WELCOME BACK, SHIN.


IT APPEARS THAT YOU'VE MADE A FORTUNE TODAY.
YEAH. I DESTROYED 4 OR 5 ENEMY TANKS I FIGURE I MADE AROUND EIGHT GRAND.
THERE'S A MEETING IN THE BRIEFING ROOM AT 18:30, AFTER THE MESS HOUR. I'LL BE COVERING TOMORROW'S OPERATION
YOUR KILLS HAVE BEEN RECORDED BY THE PLANE'S CAMERAS. GET THE FILM DOWN TO RECORDS IMMEDIATELY. YOU'LL HAVE THE RESULTS IN AN HOUR.
ANY QUESTIONS ?
NOT PARTICULARLY.
THEN GET SOME REST. YOU'LL NEED IT
.....

HEH, HEH, HEH. SHIN, ME BOY, WELCOME BACK!
McCOY ...
PLEASE ATTACH THE SIDE-WINDERS TO MY PLANE.
I ALSO NEED 300 ROUNDS FOR THE 20MM GUNS.
CHICK CHICK
YOU'RE TALKIN' AROUND A THOUSAND BUCKS.
THAT'S TOO MUCH, McCOY. MAKE IT $800.
HEH, HEH... HOW'S ABOUT $850 ?
FINE, YOU CAN CHARGE IT TO MY ACCOUNT.
THANKS, LAD. AND DO COME AGAIN.



NORTH AFRICA...

AREA 88 IS A BITTER, BLOOD-STAINED BATTLEFIELD THE FRONT LINE'S FRONT LINE. EVEN THE SIMPLE LUXURY OF WALKING ON THE RUNWAY IS DEPENDENT ON THE GRACES OF ALLAH.

BUT WE ABANDONED GOD AND SHOOK HANDS WITH THE DEVIL

WE ARE THE MERCENARIES OF HELL

HI! ARE YOU THE JAP PILOT?
!
I'M MICK, MICK SIMON. I'M GONNA BE A MEMBER OF THE AREA 88 TEAM STARTIN' TODAY.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SHIN KAZAMA.
SHIN KA-ZA-MA! WHAT A GOOFY NAME! WELL, I GUESS THAT'S OKAY, EVERYONE OVER THERE'S GOT WEIRD NAMES ANYHOW.
HELL, I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND GOIN' THERE SOMEDAY.
I'M GONNA MAKE A TON OF MONEY HERE. AFTER THAT, I'M GONNA LIVE LIKE A KING!
BUT WHAT AM I TELLIN' YOU THIS FOR? YOU CAME HERE FOR THE BUCKS TOO, RIGHT? I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU JAPANESE GUYS. YOU'RE A BUNCH A' ECONOMIC ANIMALS.
IF YOU WANT TO GET RICH, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK HARD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK IS GOOD MONEY, BUT THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE IT IS TO STAY ALIVE!

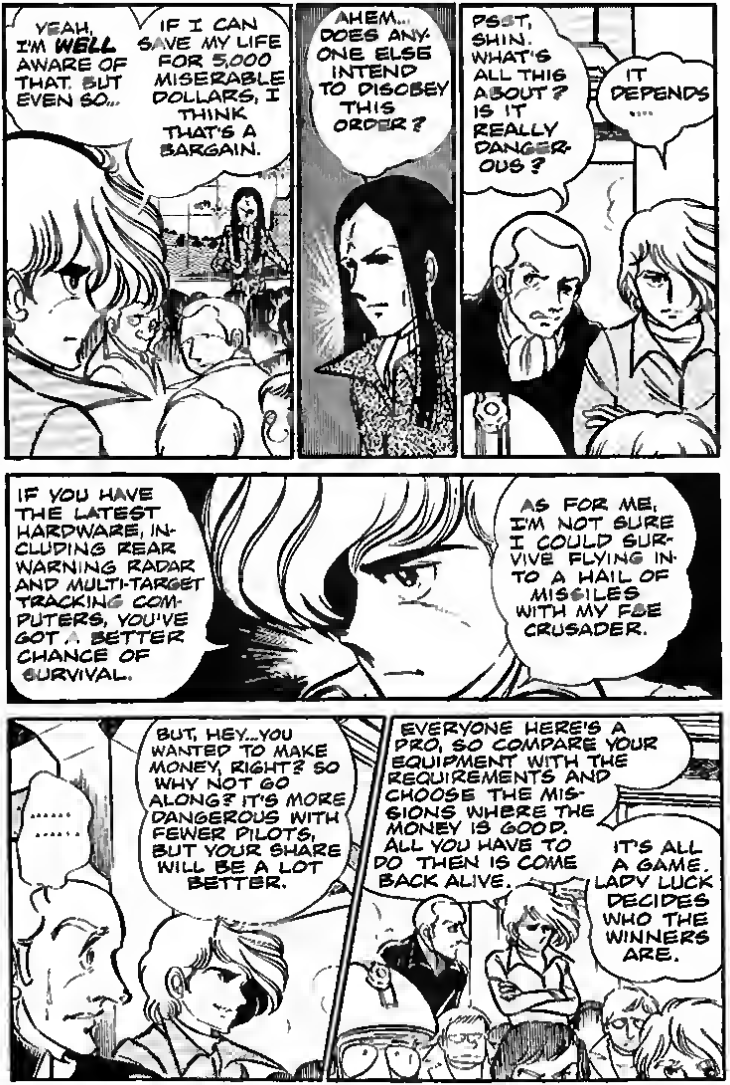
MAN, WHAT A GRUMP! AIN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT BECOMING A TERMINAL DOWNER?
NOT REALLY.
JEEZ..I JUST MET THE GUY WITH THE LONG HAIR. YOU TWO ARE REALLY WEIRD DUDES. WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS?
AND WHO'S THE HIPPIE, ANYWAY?
HE'S THE BASE COMMANDER.
EVERY-ONE CALLS HIM "SAKI."
THE COMMANDER! HE'S THE COMMANDER?
HUH! I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED IT.
AREA 88 USES A MERCEN-ARY AIR FORCE.
WE'RE HIRED BY THE ASRAN KINGDOM TO SERVE A THREE-YEAR TERM.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU'RE FROM OR WHAT YOUR RECORD IS.
WE'RE ALL A BUNCH OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS HERE.
AND PROFES-SIONAL SOLDIERS DON'T NEED COMPAN-IONS.
SEE YOU LATER.

S.KAZAMA
CLICK
VUUUUUN-TAC
VUUUUUN-TAC
SHIT! HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS NOISY AIR CONDITIONER? IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!
1979
4
KUN
.....
SUREE
TWO YEARS AND THREE MONTHS LEFT...
TWO MORE YEARS .....

TWO YEARS! TWO YEARS... IT'S TOO DAMN LONG! I MIGHT AS WELL BE IN PRISON.
OH GOD... I..I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE !
I WANT TO GO HOME! I WANT TO LIVE IN TOKYO AGAIN, I WANT TO SEE RYOKO!
WUUNN
WUUNN
TAC TAC

BRIEFING ROOM
HERE HE COMES .....
.....
.....
.....
.....
LIGHT

ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING TO COVER TOMORROW'S MISSION. PAY ATTENTION.
THE TARGET IS AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GROUND TO AIR MISSILE BASE AT POINT TWO-CHARLIE IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR.
TH·DI
TOMORROW AFTERNOON, THE ASRAN NATIONAL AIR FORCE WILL BEGIN A NEW OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ENEMY. WE WILL HAVE TO DESTROY OR SERIOUSLY IMPAIR THE BASE'S OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES.
PREPARE YOURSELVES, WE LEAVE IN SIX HOURS.
JESUS CHRIST ON A POGO STICK! I DON'T WANT TO FLY INTO THAT SHIT!
IT'LL BE LIKE FLYIN' RIGHT INTO A MISSILE STORM! THE HELL WITH THAT NOISE!
SAKI! I'M NOT GOING ON THIS MISSION.
EITHER YOU GO, SHIN, OR I WILL HAVE TO FINE YOU $5,000 FOR DISOBEYING AN ORDER


YEAH, I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT. BUT EVEN SO...
IF I CAN SAVE MY LIFE FOR 5,000 MISERABLE DOLLARS, I THINK THAT'S A BARGAIN.
AHEM... DOES ANY-ONE ELSE INTEND TO DISOBEY THIS ORDER?
PSST, SHIN. WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT? IS IT REALLY DANGER-OUS?
IT DEPENDS ....
IF YOU HAVE THE LATEST HARDWARE, IN-CLUDING REAR WARNING RADAR AND MULTI-TARGET TRACKING COM-PUTERS, YOU'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.
AS FOR ME, I'M NOT SURE I COULD SUR-VIVE FLYING IN-TO A HAIL OF MISSILES WITH MY FOE CRUSADER.
.....
.....
BUT, HEY...YOU WANTED TO MAKE MONEY, RIGHT? SO WHY NOT GO ALONG? IT'S MORE DANGEROUS WITH FEWER PILOTS, BUT YOUR SHARE WILL BE A LOT BETTER.
EVERYONE HERE'S A PRO, SO COMPARE YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS AND CHOOSE THE MIS-SIONS WHERE THE MONEY IS GOOD. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO THEN IS COME BACK ALIVE.
IT'S ALL A GAME. LADY LUCK DECIDES WHO THE WINNERS ARE.

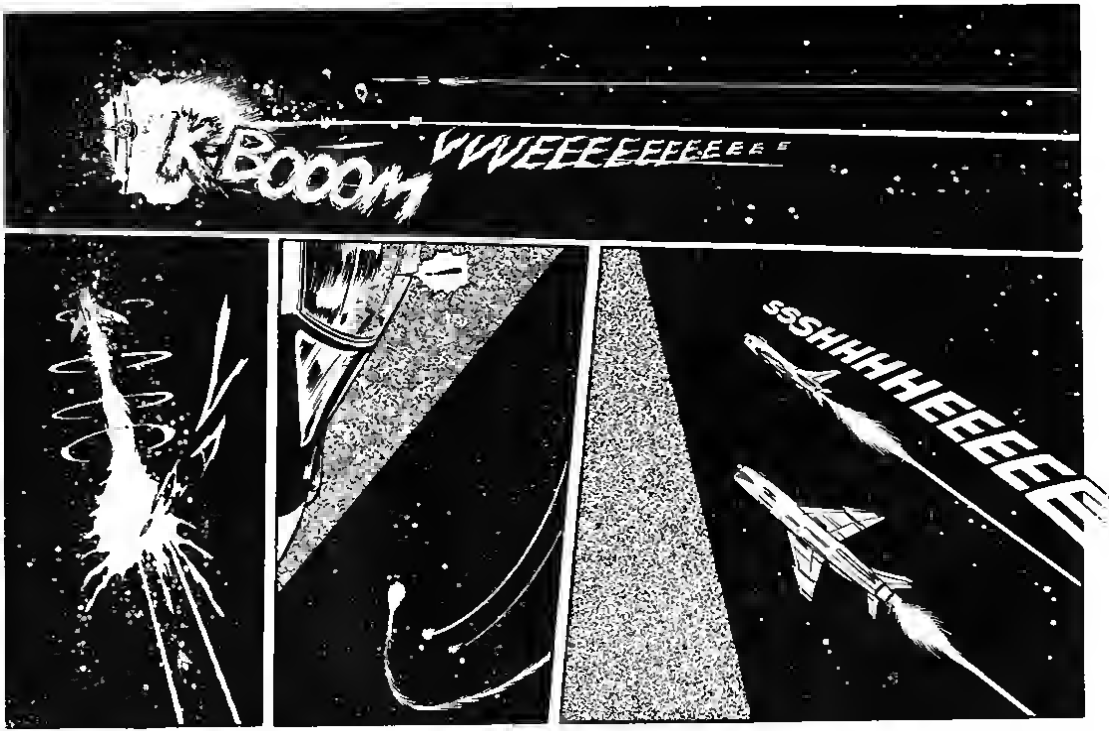
SAKI! I'M NOT GOING EITHER.
BOWMAN, YOU ONLY HAVE $2,000 LEFT IN YOUR ACCOUNT. THINK AGAIN.
PIC
SHIN, OLD PAL... CAN I BORROW THREE GRAND OFFA YOU?
I'LL PAY YOU RIGHT BACK I PROMISE
.....
.....
HEH, HEH... YOU DON'T MIND-- RIGHT, MATE? I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT LOTS OF MONEY IN YOUR ACCOUNT. SO HOW ABOUT IT, HUH?
NO WAY, BOWMAN.
GO AND MEET YOUR MAKER.
PLEASE! ANYBODY! IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO CAN LEND ME THE MONEY?
COME ON! PLEASE!
.....
.....

HEY, BOWMAN! I'LL HELP YOU OUT, MAN.
JEFF, YOU WILL?
SURE, MAN. WE'LL FORM A PAIR. I'LL PROTECT YOUR BEHIND, SO DON'T WORRY.
.....
.....
THE NEW PILOT... UH, MICK.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
UH... UH... I'M NOT GOING EITHER.
!
HEY, GREENIE! WHAT D'YA COME HERE FOR ANYWAY? THE SUNSHINE?
YEAH! YOU GOT ENOUGH MONEY THERE, JEEP? YOU SOME KINDA ROCKEFELLER?
AH, HEH, HEH ...
ALL RIGHT, MICK. YOU'LL BE FINED $5,000, AS WELL AS YOUR FRIEND.

SHHHHEEEEOOOO
ZZZZHHHHAAA
5
4
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO? I THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO GET RICH.
I HAD AN IDEA, SEE?
!?
I REALIZED JUST HOW DANGEROUS WORKING FROM THIS BASE IS. THE MISSIONS WE GET HERE AND THE LIKE...
SO I SAYS TO MYSELF, MICK...THIS GUY SHIN SEEMS TO DO PRETTY DAMN GOOD. WHY NOT FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE, AND PLAY IT SAFE.

ENEMY FORMATION APPROACHING!
ENEMY FORMATION APPROACHING!
OF COURSE. THE PRIZE MONEY FOR SHOOTING MOVING TARGETS LIKE JET FIGHTERS IS A LOT HIGHER THAN FIXED TARGETS LIKE A MISSILE BASE.
SHIN! DID YOU GIVE UP THAT FIVE GRAND 'CAUSE YOU KNEW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN?
JUST AS I THOUGHT! THEY'RE COMING HERE. NOW IT'S MY TURN.
WHEN THE RISKS ARE THE SAME, I'M ALWAYS GOING TO TAKE THE JOB THAT PAYS BETTER.
AOOOGHA
AOOOGHA
COME ON! HURRY UP!
MMMMM
SHIN KAZAMA. THERE GOES ONE CLEVER S.O.B.!

SHHHH
SSSHHHAAA


KBooom
VVVEEEEEEEEEEE
SSSHHHHHEEEEEE

HEY SHIN! YOU'RE A FRIGGIN' ACE JUST LIKE I FIGURED!
SSSSHHHHHAAAAA
00
00

SSSHHHOOOOOOOMMM
LOOKS LIKE OUR BOYS HAVE COME BACK
WELCOME BACK, GAKI.

I UNDERSTAND YOU DEFENDED THE BASE. NICE WORK, SHIN.
WELL, I ALWAYS TAKE THE BETTER PAYING JOBS. AS YOU KNOW.
YES, WELL... IT LOOKS AS IF I WILL BE GIVING A NEW MISSION ON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
!
HA, HA, HA
HEY, SHIN !!
I DESTROYED TEN BLOODY MISSILE LAUNCHERS AND FIVE BLEEDIN' TANKS AT THE MISSILE BASE.
I MADE THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, YOU WANKER! YOU CAN'T BE BLOODY INSOLENT TO ME ANY MORE!
BOWMAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO JEFF?
WELL...HE GOT HIT BY A MISSILE. YOU KNOW, ONE MINUTE HE'S THERE, THE NEXT HE'S IN PIECES. THAT'S LIFE.

THAT BASTARD !
YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM, REALLY. THEY'RE ALL RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR MONEY.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHIN? WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING FOR?!
THE SKIES THAT BETRAYED ME...
DANGER